

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP OF THE EC COMMISSION

REF MTN GENEVA 1437, COPENHAGEN 6009, EC BRUSSELS A-32

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. REF AIRGRAM CONTAINS THE LATEST MISSION THOUGHTS ON POSSIBLE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION. PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE COMMISSION WILL AFFECT THE COMMISSION'S EFFORTS TO PUSH THE MEMBER STATES TO ELABORATE FURTHER THE COMMUNITY'S MTN NEGOTIATING POSTURE. WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT COMMISSION IN STRIVING FOR PROGRESS DURING THE REST OF 1976. END SUMMARY.

2. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH SPECULATION IN BRUSSELS ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION FOR 1977. REF AIRGRAM CONTAINED A ROUNDUP OF THAT SPECULATION IN REGARD TO THE VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. (WE ARE FORWARDING A COPY TO MTN GENEVA.)

3. UNTIL WE GET CLOSER TO THE TIME WHEN THE NEW COMMISSION WILL BE NAMED, WE SEE NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM FURTHER SPECULATION ABOUT WHO WILL BE WHAT. HOWEVER, WE CAN SAY THAT OUR COMMISSION, PERMDEL AND COUNCIL SOURCES CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT GUNDELACH WILL BECOME THE NEXT COMMISSION PRESIDENT, AND THAT THE BETTING CONTINUES TO BE

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HEAVY ON A BRITISH NOMINEE. UNTIL WE FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT WHO

WILL BE TAKING OVER THE VARIOUS SEATS IN THE COMMISSION,  
WE WILL FEEL EVEN LESS SURE ABOUT SPECULATING ON POSSIBLE  
CHANGES IN THE COMMISSION'S POLICIES WHICH NEW INDIVIDUALS  
MIGHT INSTITUTE.

4. WE AGREE TO SOME EXTENT WITH GALLAGHER'S COMMENTS IN MTN  
GENEVA 1437 THAT THE COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE WOULD  
MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE COMMISSION.  
HOWEVER, WE DO NOT AGREE WITH HIS COMMENT THAT THE NEGOTIATING  
MANDATES LAID DOWN BY THE COUNCIL WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY  
PERSONNEL SHIFTS. OUR PRIME REASON FOR THIS BELIEF IS THAT  
ALTHOUGH THERE NOW EXISTS A FORMAL MANDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY'S  
NEGOTIATION IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS NOT  
AN EXHAUSTIVE DOCUMENT ON MANY ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.  
ITS TREATMENT OF TARIFFS AND AGRICULTURE IS RELATIVELY PRECISE.  
HOWEVER, ITS TREATMENT OF A NUMBER OF OTHER SECTORS SUCH AS  
NTBS (E.G., GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AND  
STANDARDS), SAFEGUARDS, SUPPLY ACCESS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,  
IS STILL QUITE GENERAL. IN THOSE SECTORS WHICH ARE TREATED WITH  
SOME PRECISION, E.G., TARIFFS AND AGRICULTURE, THE COMMUNITY'S  
POSITIONS CONFLICT WITH ESTABLISHED OR EMERGING POSITIONS OF THE  
UNITED STATES OR WITH THOSE OF A NUMBER OF OTHER NEGOTIATING  
COUNTRIES.

5. ONE OF THE FOREMOST TASKS CONFRONTING THE US IN THIS  
TRANSITION YEAR IS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF PERSUADING THE  
MEMBER STATES OF THE NECESSITY FOR CHANGES IN THESE PRECISE  
MANDATES. IN THOSE SECTORS OF THE NEGOTIATION WHERE THE  
COMMUNITY'S MANDATE IS SO FAR CONFINED MAINLY TO GENERALITIES,  
THE COUNCIL (OR COREPER OR THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE) WILL  
HAVE TO SPEAK AGAIN, AND PERHAPS SEVERAL TIMES, IN THE FORM OF  
MORE PRECISE MANDATES OR OF ACTUAL DECISIONS ON NEGOTIATING  
POSTURES BEFORE THE COMMUNITY CAN TABLE FIRM OFFERS. THE  
STRUGGLE WHICH IS GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY TO DECIDE ON ITS  
TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE DECISIONS REQUIRED  
OF THE MEMBER STATES ON THESE SUBJECTS. THE TIMING FOR FURTHER  
MEMBER STATE PRONOUNCEMENTS ON DETAILS WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON  
THE PACE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE  
COMMUNITY WILL ADOPT POSITIONS BEFORE IT IS FORCED TO DO SO BY  
THE PRESSURES OF GENEVA.

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6. IT IS IN THE ELABORATION OF THESE FURTHER MANDATES AND  
DETAILS THAT THE PERSONAL IMPULSE OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE  
IMPORTANT. UNLESS THE COMMISSIONERS THEMSELVES PUSH THE MEMBER  
STATES, LITTLE WILL HAPPEN IN THIS FIELD.

7. UP UNTIL NOW THE COMBINATION OF SOAMES AND GUNDELACH HAS BEEN  
AS FAVORABLE AS WE ANTICIPATE WE CAN EXPECT IN REGARD TO GENERATING

COMMISSION PRESSURE FOR PROGRESS ON THE MTN FRONT. LARDINOIS HAS NOT BEEN A POSITIVE FACTOR IN THIS PARTICULAR ENDEAVOR. HOWEVER, HIS ACUTE APPRECIATION OF THE NEED TO AVOID ANTAGONIZING DISPUTES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND HIS SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY BUTZ ARE NOT FACTORS WHICH WE SHOULD DISCOUNT WHEN THE PACE OF THE AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS PICK UP. (UP UNTIL NOW LARDINOIS HAS DELEGATED TO RABOT ALMOST ALL THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE EC'S MTN ACTIVITY IN AGRICULTURE.) WE BELIEVE LIKEWISE THAT SOAMES AND GUNDELACH HAVE WORKED TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH THE US IN THE MTN FIELD.

8. CONSEQUENTLY, DESPITE THE POSSIBLE LAME-DUCK EFFECT, WE BELIEVE THAT WITH THE CURRENT MAKEUP OF THE COMMISSION THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID FOR THE TACTIC OF ATTEMPTING TO PUSH THE COMMUNITY FURTHER IN 1976 IN CERTAIN AREAS. PROVIDED THAT THE CURRENT NUMBER OF POTENTIALLY CONTENTIOUS BILATERAL ISSUES IS KEPT UNDER CONTROL, WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS MILEAGE TO BE GAINED IN THE REST OF THIS YEAR IN ATTEMPTING TO GET THE CURRENT COMMISSION TO MOVE THE MEMBER STATES TOWARD FURTHER DECISIONS ON THE VAGUER SECTIONS OF THE MANDATE (E.G., NTBS). WE ARE DUBIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT THE CURRENT COMMISSION WILL BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN SERVING AS A CATALYST TO MOVE THE COMMUNITY BACK FROM POSITIONS ALREADY TAKEN (E.G., AGRICULTURE). FOR THIS, THE UNITED STATES WILL NEED TO DEVELOP A COHERENT STRATEGY INCLUDING PLANS FOR WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES.  
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